

As a licensed General Class operator in the Amateur Radio Service, it would terrify me to see the morse code requirements removed for HF licensing. All the evidence you need is on the 144-148 MHz FM repeaters. The operating can be very inconsiderate and very much outside of "good amateur practice." The thing that must be considered before removing this requirement is the fact that when someone who has no clue how to operate a radio gets on the UHF and VHF bands, they usually cannot be heard beyond line of sight. Therefore they cannot interfere with anyone outside of their immediate area. When you give someone the same access to the HF bands, they can interfere with every other operator in the world including stations in other services that share our bands. I have nothing against the majority of VHF and UHF operators, I operate 6 meters, 2 meters, and 70 cm mobile all the time. I would seriously worry about removing this requirement. More than anything, it proves a dedication to learn the necessary skills and techniques to become a proficient amateur radio operator. Learning 38 letters, numbers, and punctuation characters and a few prosigns is not hard for anyone, and at 5 words per minute, you don't have to be able to catch them all in context, you just have to know that .-.. is 1, or --- is 0. PLEASE do not remove the element 1 exam to allow access to the HF bands.